

Yerington Mine Chronology of Events

- 1918-1920: Empire Mine operates at Yerington site.
- 1920-1953: No operations at Yerington site.
- 1953-1978: Anaconda Copper Company operates the mine, disposes of mining wastes, including acid brines and tailings into evaporation ponds located on site.
- 1973: NV Bureau of Mines – Bulletin 81 reports on radioactivity at site.
- 1976: MJ Bright Report describes uranium in evaporation ponds.
- 1977: Atlantic Richfield purchased Anaconda as the Yerington Mine was shutting down.
- June 30, 1978: Anaconda closes Yerington Mine.
- 1978: Mine sold to private entrepreneur who leased portions of the site to other companies for salvaging activities.
- 1979: Yerington Mine entered into Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation Liability Information System (CERCLIS) database.
- 1979: Anaconda Internal Memo describes radioactive contents of evaporation ponds.
- 1979: National Uranium Resource Evaluation Report describes uranium content of northwest Nevada copper ore.
- 1982: EPA completes hazard ranking package.
- 1982-1988: Copper Tek conducts operations to remove copper from tailings, using solvent extraction electro-winning process.
- 1985: Atlantic Richfield ordered by the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection to address impacts to groundwater. As a result, a series of extraction wells are installed along the northern, down gradient boundary. Continued migration of groundwater plume prompts new concerns regarding leakage of the evaporation ponds and efficiency of the pump-back extraction system.
- 1988: Arimetco purchases the property, including the unpatented mining claims. Arimetco had conducted a closed system copper extraction process of tailings from Anaconda's operation on leased land prior to the purchase.
- 1989-2000: Arimetco conducts operations to remove copper from tailings, as well as from ore mined at the MaArthur site, using solvent extraction electro-winning process.

- 1990: EPA conducts CERCLA evaluation of site.
- 1993: Arimetco expands operations and posts a reclamation bond.
- 1994: EPA conducts CERCLA prioritization, determines that the Yerington Mine is eligible for listing on National Priority List (NPL) as a Superfund site.
- 1997: Arimetco files for bankruptcy, but continues to operate the mine until January 2000.
- 1999: Additional pumpback wells installed by Atlantic Richfield in an effort to contain the groundwater plume which had migrated off-site.
- 2000: Arimetco abandons the site, leaving four operational heap leach pads with approximately 92 million gallons of pregnant leach solution still in the system.
- 2000: Environmental Protection Agency requests State of Nevada's position.
- 2001: Governor Guinn states NPL is not best interest for Yerington Mine at this time.
- 2002: Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, EPA and BLM sign Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to coordinate both investigative and response actions to remediate mine site. Time lines for various site investigations or work plans were proposed and approved for developing 13 industry standard work plans at CERCLA level of acceptance.
- Summer 2003: BLM discovered Anaconda documents at University of Wyoming archives.
- October 2004: BLM management oversight moves from Carson City Field Office to Nevada State Office in Reno.
- December 2004: Nevada Gov. Kenny Guinn formally requests that EPA take over regulatory control of the former Anaconda site at Yerington mine. EPA agrees to assume primary responsibility for cleanup of the site.

Land ownership of mine site

- \ Arimetco 51 percent land owner; 49 percent is public land managed by BLM.
- \ Atlantic Richfield (ARC) is Potentially Responsible Party (PRP) for Site.
- \ ARC is a subsidiary company of British Petroleum (BP).